Early Childhood Screening Assessment 24 (ECSA-24) At A Glance

**Age range covered:** 1 ½ - 5 yrs

**Languages:** English, Spanish, and Romanian

**Domains (Areas) screened:** Emotional & Behavioral Development; Maternal Distress

**Components:**
Two versions:
1. Medical Home: 1 page 24 items (includes 2 questions relating to maternal depression (PHQ-2))
2. Child Care: 1 page 22 items

**User Manual**

**Who completes it:** Parents/caregivers complete questionnaires; trained professionals interpret them

**Approximate time:** Each questionnaire takes ~5 minutes to complete and less than 1 minute to score

**Validity and reliability:**
ECSA scores are strongly associated to scores on longer, established measures including the Child Behavior Checklist. The ECSA has appropriate ability to identify children who meet criteria for a psychiatric diagnosis (sensitivity = 89%) and to correctly identify children who don’t have a diagnosis (specificity = 85%). It is reliable over multiple time points.

**Instructions**
Parents circle a “0”, “1”, or “2” to indicate the frequency of the behaviors described in the item. They are also asked to circle a “+” if they are “concerned about a behavior and want help with it”.

**Scoring**
Score all items in order to get the most accurate score. The ECSA is not valid if more than 2 child items are skipped.

**Child Score:** the sum of the circled numbers of items 1-22, with a maximum score of 44. A score ≥9 suggests that the child may be at higher risk of having a mental health problem. A score of 9 or higher, any “+”s, or parental concern should trigger a conversation with the parent and consideration of further assessment or referral.

**Parent depression score (items 23 and 24):** Any response greater than zero is positive and should trigger further assessment and consideration of referral for parent.

**Follow-up:** Handouts the Bright Futures Website (www.brightfutures.org/mentalhealth/) or Zero to Three (www.zerotothree.org), Tulane Early Childhood Collaborative (www.tulane.edu/som/tecc) can be useful resources for parents.

**Use of the ECSA:** For updates or questions, please contact: Mary Margaret Gleason, MD, FAAP _Mgleason@tulane.edu_, (504) 988 4653.

**References:**